Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (new): In a safety device for a motor vehicle having an elongated steering column having a central longitudinal axis on which a steering wheel is mounted at one end, said steering column having a horizontal profile and extending at an acute angle, the steering column providing a substantially cylindrical enclosure for a vehicle steering shaft, said steering column provided with length adjustment and height adjustment for placing the column in a multiplicity of positions from a lowest to a highest position and from a most retracted position to a most pulled out position, wherein the length adjustment is effected with slot guidance, which runs linearly in the longitudinal direction of the steering column arrangement, an engagement mechanism cooperating with the slot guidance for making length adjustment, and a lock for locking the steering column in a fixed position the improvement comprising:

a) the height adjustment contains a swiveling mechanism, which engages with the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment,

b) the safety device is so constructed and arranged that the length adjustment and the height adjustment in all positions of the steering column are above the lowest point of the horizontal profile of the steering column,

c) whereby the space through and above the steering wheel is unobstructed to view instruments on dashboard and space below the steering column is unobstructed to give greater protection to legs and knees of a driver in the event of an accident.

Claim 30 (new): In a safety device according to claim 29 wherein a bolt is bent in its central portion overlying the top of the steering column with the bolt ends projecting laterally away from the steering column above its longitudinal axis, and said length

adjustment and said height adjustment are mounted on at least one bolt end laterally of the steering column.

Claim 31 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 29, wherein the swiveling mechanism contains at least one swiveling lever, which at one end engages with the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment and with at other end is linked in a swiveling manner with a stationary part of the motor vehicle.

Claim 32 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 29, wherein the swiveling mechanism contains a stabilization component.

Claim 33 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 32, wherein the stabilization component includes at least one guide lever having two ends, with one end engaging with the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment and with its other end connected by an articulation swiveled to the motor vehicle, and wherein each guide lever contains a length compensation.

Claim 34 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 29, wherein a clamping device is provided which engages with the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment for the fixing of a setting position of the steering column arrangement.

Claim 35 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 34, wherein the clamping device contains a plurality of clamping plates, which are actuated by the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment.

Claim 36 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 35, wherein one of a plurality of swiveling levers and a plurality of guide levers are provided received between the clamping plates so that, during the clamping of a setting position of the steering column by the clamping plates via the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment, the height adjustment is fixed.

Claim 37 (new): In a safety device according to Claims 34, wherein the clamping device contains a holding device that can be actuated with respect to the engagement mechanism for actuation of the clamping device.

Claim 38 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 37, wherein the holding device contains one of a screw, screw threading, nut, lever and lug.

Claim 39 (new): In a safety devices according to Claim 34, wherein the clamping device contains a plurality of clamping plates and at least one clamping piece associated with the clamping plates, which clamping piece achieves a clamping effect via an overlap with a clamping plate.

Claim 40 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 39, wherein the clamping piece has a slight curvature to enable the highest clamping force to be applied at its end areas.

Claim 41 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 29, wherein the slot guidance is provided on both sides of the steering column and contains guidance slots which run linearly in the longitudinal direction of the steering column, and wherein the engagement mechanism include an engagement part which is applied against only one side of the steering column.

Claim 42 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 41, wherein the engagement part has a middle section, applied against the external contour of the steering column arrangement, and engagement ends, which are juxtaposed to the steering column.

Claim 43 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 42, wherein the engagement mechanism is located above and around the steering column.

Claim 44 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 43, wherein the engagement mechanism is located around an upper half of the steering column.

Claim 45 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 43 wherein the engagement device can be swiveled for the actuation of the clamping device.

Claim 46 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 45, wherein the engagement mechanism can be swiveled 60°.

Claim 47 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 45, wherein the engagement mechanism can be swiveled 30°.

Claim 48 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 45, wherein the engagement mechanism can be swiveled from a mid position in both directions.

Claim 49 (new): In a safety device according to Claims 41, wherein the engagement part is a bolt, which contains a bend that lies around the steering column.

Claim 50 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 49, wherein the bolt has a circular cross section.

Claim 51 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 29, wherein the length adjustment is carried along during a height adjustment of the steering column.

Claim 52 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 29, wherein the length adjustment height adjustment are located laterally next to the steering column.

Claim 53 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 29, wherein the slot guidance of the length adjustment includes at least one guidance slot formed in an adjustment plate.

Claim 54 (new): In a safety device according Claim 29, wherein a load removal device is arranged to at least partially compensate the weight of the steering column.

Claim 55 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 54, wherein the load removal device includes a flat spiral spring which acts between the motor vehicle and the steering column.

Claim 56 (new): In a safety device according to Claim 55, wherein the flat spiral spring cooperates with the swiveling mechanism and a base plate with which the swiveling mechanism engages.

Claim 57 (new): In a safety method for a vehicle including the steps of providing length and height adjustment to a steering column having a horizontal profile, where the length adjustment is carried out by a slot guidance which runs linearly in the longitudinal direction of the steering column, and fixing the steering column by an engagement mechanism which is received in the slot guidance, the improvement comprising the steps of:

a) carrying out the height adjustment by a swiveling of the steering column by means of a swiveling mechanism which engages with the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment; and
b) maintaining the height adjustment without any portion thereof protruding below the horizontal profile of the steering column to maintain space below the steering column free of obstruction.